

Judge E. T. Foote's letter to the Chautauqua Tract Society  
Transcribed by Douglas H. Shepard, 2015

The following is a transcription of Foote's copy of his own letter to the Chautauqua County Tract Society in 1859, and was marked as such by him. It is found in [the Foote papers](#).

*New Haven Conn Aug 20 59  
To the President and Members  
Of the Chaut. Tract Society  
Dear Brethren*

*I intended and earnestly desired to be present at our ensuing anniversary, but I now find I shall be unable to attend. Still I feel a deep interest in the questions that have lately agitated the American Tract Society and must of necessity come before all of our tract societies.*

*I am one of the oldest life members of the American Tract Society, and I have been an annual contributor to its funds for a long series of years. I actively favored the formation of our Chautauque Society and do not feel justified in keeping silent on the questions that have recently arisen. It is unnecessary to go into particulars. They are known to you. Has it come to this that the tract society is not to bear testimony against a heinous sin? That even the horrors of the Slave trade so long condemned by all Christendom, and by the laws of our own country long since declared a crime of the highest magnitude, and the penalty death, to be passed by in silence, when the law is violated with impunity, and while an organized effort is being made to restore the horrid tr[ade] and do away with the penalty. Shall our Societies be dumb on the subject God forbid. I beseech you brethren [assert?] yourselves like men: like Christians. Let the \_\_\_ of God and your own consciences enlight\_\_by it lead you to speak out as Christians as men who must give an account of your stewardship & I pray that no temporizing [or?] worldly policy may controll your proc\_\_\_. I think I know they will not. I am approaching the close of life. I feel anxious that the \_\_\_ties I have assisted in organizing shall rem[ain] faithful in the discharge of every duty.*

*Pardon the liberty I have taken*

*With Christian regard  
Truly &c E. T. Foote*